Development of newly discovered Shiva Temple near Amarnath

953. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a historic Shiva cave temple complex believed to be 1,500 years old has been discovered in Chandanwari near the holy cave of Amarnath in South Kashmir;

(b) if so, the circumstances leading to the discovery; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to develop the new found caves into a tourist attraction?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. However the historicity of the site has not been established.

(b) As per information furnished by the State Government, the existence of the caves was first reported by a 'Bakarwal' in August, 2001.

(c) The matter is being looked into further, in consultation with the State Govt.

Preservation of ancient Monuments in Orissa

954. SHRI RANGANATH MISRA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to undertake schemes for effective preservation of the ancient monuments of Hindus, Budhists and Jains located in different parts of Orissa;

(b) if so, what steps have been/are being taken for adequate preservation; and

(c) the reasons for not establishing higher grade establishment with adequate funds for such purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) The Archaeological Survey of India has 73 centrally protected monuments in Orissa.

The normal maintenance and conservation of these monuments is an on-going process. Specific repairs are taken up on actual requirement of the monuments concerned, and the availability of funds.

(c) With a view to paying closure attention to the conservation and management of these monuments, a new Circle Office of the Archaeological Survey of India was created in Bhubaneswar in 1985 by bifurcating the office of the Superintending Archaeologist, Kolkata Circle. there is no proposal to further modify this arrangement.

The allocation of funds for the maintenance & conservation of monuments in Orissa in the last two years is as under:

2000-2001	: Rs. 47,36,345.00
2001-2002	: Rs. 1,26,30,000.00

Maintenance of Historical Monument at Bijapur

955. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:
SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Bijapur, Karnataka the site of sixty graves under the control of Archaeological Survey of India is in a neglected condition;

(b) whether any amount has been allotted to maintain the monument;

(c) whether it is also a fact that other historical monuments in the town are not properly kept; and

(d) if so, what measures Government propose to ensure their proper up-keep?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The monument described as "Site of 60 graves", and locally known as "Afzal Khan's Wives' Tombs" was deprotected by the Archaeological Survey of India on 1.4.1960.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The centrally protected monuments in Bijapur are under regular maintenance and in a fairly good state of preservation.